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CALGARY Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan | June 13, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- to provide an authentic learning resource for both learners and instructors

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys



Natasha Frakes

*Voice of Learning
English, CBC Calgary*



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NEWSCAST 1

GM EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE 1,000 ENGINEERING JOBS IN ONTARIO



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/gm-canada-jobs-1.3621825>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Look at the title. What do you think the story is about? Do you know what GM is?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, answer the questions.

1. General Motors is expected to announce the addition of 1,000 jobs. What types of jobs are they?
2. What is General Motors going to focus on developing?
3. How many jobs will be in Oshawa?
4. How many jobs will be in Markham?
5. How many people does GM currently employ?

READING ACTIVITY

Read the following script. Check your answers while you read the script.

General Motors is expected to announce the addition of 1,000 highly skilled engineering and software jobs in Ontario over the next several years.

The automaker will expand the company's Canadian operations and focus on development of self-driving cars, shared vehicles and other mobility systems.

The jobs will mainly be based in Oshawa and Markham, Ontario. GM already has a tech centre in Oshawa, and it's believed that facility will see around 300 new engineering jobs added. Markham will be the home for a new software development centre with around 700 new engineers.

GM currently employs 9,000 people across Canada, but has had as many as tens of thousands of employees in previous decades.

CONCLUSION

What type of job do you do? Or, what job would you like to have? Discuss with a partner or friend.

NEWSCAST 2

WOLF EUTHANIZED IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/wolves-banff-national-park-bow-valley-euthanized-1.3620751>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

What do you know about wolves? Have you ever seen a wolf?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Review the words and definitions.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
euthanized	killed
bold	daring; confident
conservation experts	people that specialize in caring for nature and wildlife
an occupied campsite	a campsite with people
to chase (someone) away	run after
ran off	ran away; escaped; fled
cooler	an insulated container to keep food and drinks cool
accessed	obtained; got
fazed	disturbed; bothered
carnivores	animals that eat meat
risk	danger
consultation	discussion
consideration	careful thought; reflection

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 1:17)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen, follow along with the script.

Parks Canada officials have **euthanized** a wolf in Banff whose **bold** behaviour worried **conservation experts**.

The pack entered **an occupied campsite** at Tunnel Mountain and ignored those that tried **to chase them away**. One of the animals **ran off** with a loaf of bread out of a closed **cooler**.

According to resource conservation manager Bill Hunt, it was not the first time the pack had **accessed** human food.

"This wolf was extremely **bold** and was not **fazed** by the campers' efforts to scare it away," Parks Canada said of the wolf that was **euthanized**. It added, "History has shown that food-conditioned **carnivores** present a clear **risk** to visitor safety. This wolf was involved in a number of incidents involving people and food."

The decision to kill the wolf was made after **consultation** with wildlife management experts, a review of scientific literature and careful **consideration** of other options, Parks Canada said.

Visitors to Banff are reminded to report wolf sightings, keep food and garbage secure, and NEVER feed wildlife.

CONCLUSION

Consider or discuss the following questions:

- What do you know about Banff National Park?
- Why do you think people feed wildlife?
- What is the problem with feeding wildlife?
- The wolf that was euthanized had pups. In your opinion, did conservation experts make the right decision?
- Have you heard a similar story to this one?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY: PHOTO STORY

Step 1: Take a minute to look at the following words and expressions below.

One day...	a young elk/an elk	walking back and forth
on a bridge	in Banff National Park	wolf/a pack of wolves
attacking	attack from the back/front	took the elk down
got back up	tried to flee/get away	It was...

Step 2: Take a minute to look at the photos from 1 to 6 and to think about your story.



Step 3: Tell the story the photos show using the words to help you.

NEWSCAST 3

SOUTH AFRICAN FIREFIGHTERS DISPUTE PAY AT FORT McMURRAY WILDFIRE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/south-africa-alberta-firefighters-wages-1.3623422>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 5 or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

What do you think Canadian firefighters make per day or per hour? What do you think South African firefighters earn per day or per hour? Do you know what the minimum wage is in Alberta currently?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2013, 39.8% of minimum wage workers were between the ages of 15 and 19. Statistics Canada notes, "youth, women and persons with a low level of education were the groups most likely to be paid at minimum wage."

The following table lists hourly minimum wages for adult workers in each province and territory (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum_wage_in_Canada):

Province	Minimum Wage	Province	Minimum Wage
Alberta	\$11.20	Nova Scotia	\$10.70
British Columbia	\$10.45	Ontario	\$11.25
Manitoba	\$11.00	Prince Edward Island	\$10.75
New Brunswick	\$10.65	Quebec	\$10.75
Newfoundland	\$10.50	Saskatchewan	\$10.50
Nunavut	\$13.00	Yukon	\$11.07

Assuming a 40-hour workweek and 52 weeks worked a year, the gross monthly income of an individual earning the lowest minimum wage in Canada is C\$1,725 and the highest minimum wage is C\$1,907.

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY

Look at the title and the photo. What do you think this news story may be about?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 2:50)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension. Make notes while you listen on a separate piece of paper.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

If in a class discuss what details you understood with a partner. If working independently, review the details you understood.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 2:50)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, answer the questions below. Review the questions prior to listening to the newscast so you know what details to listen for?

How many South African firefighters came to Alberta last month to help fight the Fort McMurray wildfire?

1. Why did they not go to work last Wednesday?
2. How much did Bitiro Moseki, one of the firefighters, say they are being paid per day?
3. What does the contract state that the firefighters signed regarding their pay?
4. Why were the firefighters upset about what news articles stated about their pay?
5. What did the firefighters say about why they are here?
6. Are the firefighters making more or less money compared to what they make per day in South Africa?
7. What is their work cycle (work schedule) while they are here?

READING ACTIVITY 1

Read the following script of the newscast. After you read the newscast, check your answers to the questions in the previous activity.

South African firefighters who made international headlines for singing when they arrived in Canada have now turned to protests to dispute the wages they're being paid.

About 300 firefighters who came to Alberta last month to help fight the Fort McMurray wildfire did not report for work Wednesday because of a pay dispute.

Bitiro Moseki, one of the firefighters based at a camp north of Fort McMurray, said they are being paid \$15 a day.

The Alberta government says it made a deal with the South African government for the firefighters' services. It shows the firefighters signed a contract that stated they would be paid a total of \$50 a day, split into two payments.

The contract agrees to pay them \$15 a day now, with the balance of \$35 a day paid out within six months of their return to South Africa.

Moseki agreed firefighters did sign the contract, but said they have since been unsettled by media reports claiming they're making much more money. He said news articles claimed the workers are making between \$15 and \$21 an hour.

"We are not here for money, we are here to assist you," said Moseki, adding the firefighters have turned to the South African commissioner in Canada for help to resolve the issue.

The contract does make it clear the money the firefighters are being paid is over and above their home wages, which were not disclosed.

The Government of Alberta said the firefighters are employed by the Government of South Africa.

The province said the contract was originally to bring the firefighters to Alberta for 18 days. They arrived in Alberta on May 29th.

The contract calls for the South African firefighters to work 12 hours per day on a 14-day work cycle, with three days off at the end of 14 days.

The crews are meeting with South African officials.

CONCLUSION: Consider and/or discuss what you think about this story? How do you think Canadians feel about what the firefighters make per day? Do you think the firefighters will face problems with their employers when they return to South Africa?

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

GM EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE 1,000 ENGINEERING JOBS IN ONTARIO

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, answer the questions.

1. General Motors is expected to announce the addition of 1,000 jobs. What types of jobs are they?
Engineering and software jobs
2. What is General Motors going to focus on developing?
Self-driving cars, shared vehicles and other mobility systems
3. How many jobs will be in Oshawa?
Around 300
4. How many jobs will be in Markham?
Around 700
5. How many people does GM currently employ?
9,000

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2
WOLF EUTHANIZED IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WILL VARY

The photo story came from the CBC Calgary Lesson Plan on February 29th. The news story was as follows:

Professional photographer Christopher Martin spends a lot of time watching wildlife so when he spotted an elk walking back and forth on a bridge in Banff National Park it caught his eye.

It was unusual behaviour he said as it would take a few steps in one direction and then go backwards. It did this a few times. The curious Bragg Creek resident pulled his car over and grabbed his camera, which he always keeps handy.

As he looked through the camera lens he saw a wolf appear and bite the elk's neck. He got out of the car and hiked up a hill where he could see better. When he got closer, he saw not just one wolf attacking the elk but at least four. They were alternating in the attack. One or two would attack from the back and then the other would bite the neck, or vice versa.

The pack took the elk down twice and each time it managed to get back up and continue trying to flee. Finally, the wolves took it down for a third time, and it didn't get back up.

Parks Canada employees had arrived by this time and were monitoring the situation. Martin chatted with them while the wolves ate. Martin added, "To be able to see [something like this] in the park is pretty amazing."

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/banff-wolf-pack-elk-takedown-christopher-martin-photographer-1.3462499>

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

SOUTH AFRICAN FIREFIGHTERS DISPUTE PAY AT FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 2:50)

1. Why did they not go to work last Wednesday?

They did not go to work because of a pay dispute.

2. How much did Bitiro Moseki, one of the firefighters, say they are being paid per day?

\$15 per day

3. What does the contract state that the firefighters signed regarding their pay?

The contract states they will be paid a total of \$50/day, split into two payments (\$15 a day now and \$35 a day within six months after their return to South Africa).

4. Why were the firefighters upset about what news articles stated about their pay?

News articles stated that the workers are making between \$15 and \$21 an hour, which is not true.

5. What did the firefighters say about why they are here?

They said they are not here for the money but to assist with the wildfire.

6. Are the firefighters making more or less money compared to what they make per day in South Africa?

They are making more than (above and beyond) their regular home wages.

7. What is their work cycle (work schedule) while they are here?

12 hours/day for 14 days on then 3 days off / Their contract calls for the firefighters to work 12 hours per day on a 14-day work cycle, with 3 days off at the end of each cycle.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
INTRODUCTION	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of June 13th.	0:00
NEWSCAST 1 GM EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE 1,000 ENGINEERING JOBS IN ONTARIO Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/gm-canada-jobs-1.3621825 CLB: 4	<p>General Motors is expected to announce the addition of 1,000 highly skilled engineering and software jobs in Ontario over the next several years.</p> <p>The automaker will expand the company's Canadian operations and focus on development of self-driving cars, shared vehicles and other mobility systems.</p> <p>The jobs will mainly be based in Oshawa and Markham, Ontario. GM already has a tech centre in Oshawa, and it's believed that facility will see around 300 new engineering jobs added. Markham will be the home for a new software development centre with around 700 new engineers.</p> <p>GM currently employs 9,000 people across Canada, but has had as many as tens of thousands of employees in previous decades.</p>	0:09
NEWSCAST 2 WOLF EUTHANIZED IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/wolves-banff-national-park-bow-valley-euthanized-1.3620751 CLB: 4/5	<p>Parks Canada officials have euthanized a wolf in Banff whose bold behaviour worried conservation experts.</p> <p>The pack entered an occupied campsite at Tunnel Mountain and ignored those that tried to chase them away. One of the animals ran off with a loaf of bread out of a closed cooler.</p> <p>According to resource conservation manager Bill Hunt, it was not the first time the pack had accessed human food.</p> <p>"This wolf was extremely bold and was not fazed by the campers' efforts to scare it away," Parks Canada said of the wolf that was euthanized. It added, "History has shown that food-conditioned carnivores present a clear risk to visitor safety. This wolf was involved in a number of incidents involving people and food."</p> <p>The decision to kill the wolf was made after consultation with wildlife management experts, a review of scientific literature and careful consideration of other options, Parks Canada said.</p> <p>Visitors to Banff are reminded to report wolf sightings, keep food and garbage secure, and NEVER feed wildlife.</p>	1:17

<p>NEWSCAST 3</p> <p>SOUTH AFRICAN FIREFIGHTERS DISPUTE PAY AT FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/south-africa-alberta-firefighters-wages-1.3623422</p> <p>CLB: 5</p>	<p>South African firefighters who made international headlines for singing when they arrived in Canada have now turned to protests to dispute the wages they're being paid.</p> <p>About 300 firefighters who came to Alberta last month to help fight the Fort McMurray wildfire did not report for work Wednesday because of a pay dispute.</p> <p>Bitiro Moseki, one of the firefighters based at a camp north of Fort McMurray, said they are being paid \$15 a day.</p> <p>The Alberta government says it made a deal with the South African government for the firefighters' services. It shows the firefighters signed a contract that stated they would be paid a total of \$50 a day, split into two payments.</p> <p>The contract agrees to pay them \$15 a day now, with the balance of \$35 a day paid out within six months of their return to South Africa.</p> <p>Moseki agreed firefighters did sign the contract, but said they have since been unsettled by media reports claiming they're making much more money. He said news articles claimed the workers are making between \$15 and \$21 an hour.</p> <p>"We are not here for money, we are here to assist you," said Moseki, adding the firefighters have turned to the South African commissioner in Canada for help to resolve the issue.</p> <p>The contract does make it clear the money the firefighters are being paid is over and above their home wages, which were not disclosed.</p> <p>The Government of Alberta said the firefighters are employed by the Government of South Africa.</p> <p>The province said the contract was originally to bring the firefighters to Alberta for 18 days. They arrived in Alberta on May 29th.</p> <p>The contract calls for the South African firefighters to work 12 hours per day on a 14-day work cycle, with three days off at the end of 14 days.</p> <p>The crews are meeting with South African officials.</p>	<p>2:50</p>
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